

Message

From: Vranka, Joe [vranka.joe@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/7/2017 6:45:23 PM
To: Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]
CC: Stavnes, Sandra [Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]; Murray, Bill [Murray.Bill@epa.gov]; Mutter, Andrew [mutter.andrew@epa.gov]; Faulk, Libby [Faulk.Libby@epa.gov]; Moler, Robert [Moler.Robert@epa.gov]; Mylott, Richard [Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: AEL...CLOSE HOLD
Flag: Follow up

Hi, Betsy:

Below are some draft talking points in response to your request below. Robert prepared them and they have been reviewed by Henry and Nikia. I don't know if Charlie will get a chance to review them since he is currently at NARPM. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Joe

For both sites:

EPA Region 8 Administrator recently visited Butte and Anaconda and met with key stakeholders and members of the communities. In response to seeing and hearing the issues associated with Superfund first hand, and in recognition of the magnitude and complexity of these issues, EPA has prioritized the SBCBA and Anaconda Smelter sites to move more quickly in the Superfund process to ensure remedies protect human health and the environment.

Butte:

EPA has taken steps to accelerate the enforcement negotiations for implementation of the Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit Record of Decision and has set the end of January as a key date for parties to reach an agreement in principle so that the remaining elements in the ROD can be designed and implemented. If an agreement in principle cannot be reached, EPA will issue a Unilateral Administrative Order to ensure the remaining work (further capping, removals, and stormwater controls along upper Silver Bow Creek and Blacktail Creek) is implemented in a timely fashion.

An adequacy review for the water treatment plant that will pump and treat water from the Berkeley Pit water is underway. EPA will ensure this process is completed in the short term to understand what is needed for the plant (upgrades) to have the capacity to pump and treat water at the necessary scale. After this review is completed, EPA will act quickly to ensure the plant is ready well in advance so that the level in the pit forever stays safely below any risk of contaminating the alluvial groundwater. An updated Waterfowl Mitigation Plan will be finalized next year that will lay out actions to be employed to prevent birds from landing in the Berkeley Pit and hazing the birds from the pit.

Next year, EPA will begin further remedial investigations to characterize the nature and extent of contamination in the West Side Soils Operable Unit so that cleanup options can be identified, agreed upon, designed and implemented as soon as feasible.

Anaconda:

EPA has directed Atlantic Richfield Co. to complete residential and commercial property sampling and cleanup on a rigorous schedule. 1000 homes have been addressed since 2015, 1000 more homes will be addressed over the next 3 years.

EPA will start sampling (and remediating where necessary) school grounds for lead and school interiors for lead and arsenic early next year.

EPA and Anaconda-Deer Lodge County are discussing the final plan for institutional control measures that will be put in place to address residual contamination that may be encountered through excavation or redevelopment; raise awareness of potential sources of contamination in the community; and sample interior dust.

Based on feedback from the community, EPA will oversee a health study to be implemented immediately that will examine health issues in Anaconda and how they are related to exposure pathways and other health risks.

From: Smidinger, Betsy

Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 3:51 PM

To: Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Murray, Bill <Murray.Bill@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Faulk, Libby <Faulk.Libby@epa.gov>; Moler, Robert <Moler.Robert@epa.gov>; Peterson, Cynthia <Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov>; Thomas, Rebecca <Thomas.Rebecca@epa.gov>; Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>

Subject: AEL...CLOSE HOLD

Importance: High

Hi All...Here is the most up-to-date language for the Region 8 sites on the Administrator's SF Emphasis List. I've already sent a note to change "achieve a CD" to "achieve a conclusion" for Butte. If you see any other concerns with the language please let me know immediately.

The list is going to be released on Friday. Andrew is trying to get more info on how the release will be done from HQ (we aren't sure how much of the info below beyond the names of the sites will be released). In the meantime, Doug has asked for 3-5 key talking points for each of the sites identified as priorities for the Administrator focused on steps we will be taking at the site, how the administrator can help accomplish these steps. For BPMD, Doug is talking to the Governor and wants our message to include that we are working closely with CO and the local governments and taking into consideration the concerns of the community.

Please send your talking points to this group for review by noon tomorrow. We have a meeting scheduled at 8am Friday morning with Doug to ensure we are prepared for the release.

The info in the chart below is close hold.

Potential Actions				Issue/Upcoming Milestone	Administrator's
Anaconda (Montana)	8	MT	F	Initiate and complete negotiations to begin implementation of early actions to address human health exposure, followed by site wide work.	Facilitate activities to address human health exposure and overall site wide actions.
Bonita Peak Mining District (aka Gold King Mine)	8	CO	F	Remediation plan with short and long term objectives	Facilitate and develop a long term plan to achieve remediation and long term protectiveness.
Silver Bow Creek/Butte	8	MT	F	Administrator's site visit pending in 2018. State disagreement with PRP on implementation of the remedy. Region facilitating discussions to reach agreement to implement remedy.	Facilitate negotiations with state and PRP to achieve a CD.